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Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its first session*

New York, 11 to 22 June 2001

Summary

By its resolution 2000/35 of 18 October 2000, the Economic and Social Council decided to establish the United Nations Forum on Forests as a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council. The United Nations Forum on Forests held its organizational session at United Nations Headquarters from 12 to 16 February 2001.

The United Nations Forum on Forests held its first session at United Nations Headquarters from 11 to 22 June 2001.

* The present document is an advance version of the report of the Forum on its first session; it will be combined with the report of the Forum on its organizational session (E/2001/42 (Part I)-E/CN.18/2001/3 (Part I) and issued in final form as *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Supplement No. 22* (E/2001/42/Rev.1).

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I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decisions for action by the Council

1. The United Nations Forum on Forests recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Date and venue of the second session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind paragraph (1) of its resolution 2000/35 of 18 October 2000,

1. *Decides* that the first high-level ministerial segment of the United Nations Forum on Forests will be held during its second session;

2. *Welcomes with appreciation* the generous offer of the Government of Costa Rica to host the second session of the Forum in San José, Costa Rica, from 4 to 15 March 2002.

Draft decision II
Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its first session and provisional agenda for its second session

The Economic and Social Council,

(a) *Takes note* of the report of the United Nations Forum on Forests at its first session;

(b) *Approves* the provisional agenda for the second session of the Forum set out below:

Provisional agenda for the second session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the Plan of Action of the United Nations Forum on Forests:
   (a) Means of implementation: finance, transfer of environmentally sound technologies and capacity-building for sustainable forest management;
   (b) Progress in implementation:
   (i) Combating deforestation and forest degradation;
   (ii) Forest conservation and protection of unique types of forests and fragile ecosystems;

(iii) Rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover;

(iv) Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands and the promotion of natural and planted forests;

(v) Concepts, terminology and definitions.

4. Common items for each session:

(a) Multi-stakeholder dialogue;

(b) Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination;

(c) Country experience and lessons;

(d) Emerging issues relevant to country implementation;

(e) Inter-sessional work;

(f) Monitoring, assessment and reporting;

(g) Promoting public participation;

(h) National forest programmes;

(i) Trade;

(j) Enabling environment.

5. High-level ministerial segment.

6. Ministerial dialogue with heads of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

7. Date and venue for the third session of the Forum.

8. Provisional agenda for the third session of the Forum.

9. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its second session.

B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following decisions adopted by the Forum are brought to the attention of the Council:

Decision 1/1
Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations

The United Nations Forum on Forests decides to accord observer status to the following intergovernmental organizations:

(a) Center for International Forestry Research;

(b) International Tropical Timber Organization;

(c) Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe.

Decision 1/2
Multi-year programme of work

The United Nations Forum on Forests,

Recalling that the main objective of the international arrangement on forests is to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end,

Also recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 of 18 October 2000, particularly paragraph 4 (g), which states that the United Nations Forum on Forests will work on the basis of a multi-year programme of work, drawing on the elements reflected in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[1] the Forest Principles,[2] chapter 11 of Agenda 21[3] and the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests,

Further recalling, in particular, paragraph 9 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35,

Recalling, also in particular paragraph 4 (a) of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35,

Stressing that the multi-year programme of work should embody Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, with concrete activities to be undertaken by the United Nations Forum on Forests over the next five years, aimed at fulfilling the principal functions of the Forum, in particular the implementation of proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests at national, regional and global levels and providing a forum for policy guidance and coordination, as well as to address means of implementation and common items for each session of the Forum,

Recognizing the importance of financial resources, technology transfer and capacity-building, including the importance of international trade in wood and non-wood products in both developed and developing countries in all types of forests, including least developed countries as well as countries with low forest cover and countries with fragile ecosystems, for the realization of the aims of the multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests (E/CN.18/2001/5),

Decides to adopt the multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for the period 2001-2005, as follows:

A. Structure

1. *Decides* that the multi-year programme of work should reflect the overall objectives of sustainable forest management;

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[1] *Report of the UNCED, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. 1, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publications, Sales No. 93.I.8 and corrigendum) resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex III.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

2. *Also decides* that each session of the United Nations Forum on Forests will address the principal functions as outlined in Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, with particular emphasis on the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests;

3. *Notes* that all of the above proposals for action are included in the attached table as elements, common items or as means of implementation;

4. *Decides* that sessions of the United Nations Forum on Forests will focus on the following elements, as well as those outlined in paragraphs 5 and 6 below, in order to address implementation of those proposals:

(a) Second session of the United Nations Forum on Forests: Combating deforestation and forest degradation; forest conservation and protection of unique types of forests and fragile ecosystems; rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover; rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands; promotion of natural and planted forests; concepts, terminology and definitions;

(b) Third session of the United Nations Forum on Forests: Economic aspects of forests; forest health and productivity; maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs;

(c) Fourth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests: Traditional forest-related knowledge; forest-related scientific knowledge; social and cultural aspects of forests; monitoring, assessment and reporting, concepts and terminology and definitions; criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management;

(d) Fifth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests:

(i) Review of progress and consideration of future actions;

(ii) On the basis of the assessment referred to in paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, consider, with a view to recommending to the Council, and through it to the General Assembly, the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests;

(iii) Review the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests, as referred to in paragraph 17 of Economic and Social Council 2000/35,

5. *Decides* that the means of implementation in the attached table, finance, transfer of environmentally sound technologies and capacity-building, will be addressed during each of the sessions of the Forum in the context of the discussion of the elements for that session;

6. *Also decides* that the following common items will be addressed at each of the sessions of the Forum: multi-stakeholder dialogues; enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, inter alia, with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests; country experiences and lessons learned; emerging issues relevant to country implementation; inter-sessional work; monitoring, assessment and reporting; implementation of the Plan of Action; promoting public participation; national forest programmes; trade; and enabling environment;

7. *Decides* that cross-sectoral considerations might be explored, as appropriate;

8. *Invites* inter-sessional work, such as ad hoc expert groups and country led initiatives to support the deliberations of the Forum;

9. *Notes* that the structure of sessions of the Forum is illustrated in table 1 below.

Table 1
Structure of sessions of the United Nations Forum on Forests

Means of implementation: finance; transfer of environmentally sound technologies; capacity-building

Common items for each session: multi-stakeholder dialogue; enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, inter alia, with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests; country experiences and lessons learned; emerging issues relevant to country implementation; inter-sessional work; monitoring, assessment, and reporting; implementation of the Plan of Action; promoting public participation; national forest programmes; trade; enabling environment

First session of the United Nations Forum on Forests	*Second session of the United Nations Forum on Forests*	*Third session of the United Nations Forum on Forests*	*Fourth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests*	*Fifth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests*
• Adoption of the multi-year programme of work	• Combating deforestation and forest degradation	• Economic aspects of forests	• Traditional forest-related knowledge	• Review of progress and consideration on future actions
• Development and adoption of a Plan of Action	• Forest conservation and protection of unique types of forests and fragile ecosystems	• Forest health and productivity	• Forest-related scientific knowledge	• On the basis of the assessment referred to in para. 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, consider, with a view to recommending to the Council and through it to the General Assembly, the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests
• Initiation of the work of the UNFF with CPF	• Rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover	• Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs	• Social and cultural aspects of forests	• Review the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests

	• Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands • Promotion of natural and planted forests • Concepts, terminology and definitions	• Monitoring assessment and reporting, concepts and terminology and definitions • Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management	
	Ministerial		**Ministerial**

B. Monitoring, assessment and reporting

1. *Recognizes* that monitoring, assessment and reporting are among the principal functions of the United Nations Forum on Forests and are complementary to implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, as well as related to the overall review of the Forum at its fifth session;

2. *Stresses* the importance of the use of regional and national criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management as a basis for reporting on sustainable forest management;

3. *Decides* that the Forum's function of monitoring, assessment and reporting comprises the following areas:

(a) Progress in implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests;

(b) Progress towards sustainable management of all types of forests;

(c) Review of the effectiveness;

4. *Calls upon* member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to facilitate efforts, including those by countries, to report on the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel and the Intergovernmental Forum and to make easily accessible information on: financial resources, environmentally sound technology, to support national capacity-building for forest-related information collecting and reporting in developing countries;

5. *Invites* reporting from countries, regions, organizations and processes based on a credible, voluntary reporting system, with a focus on the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel and the Intergovernmental Forum;

6. *Decides* that a representative selection of lessons learned, achievements, as well as obstacles to implementation should be presented and discussed at each session of the United Nations Forum on Forests as organized by the Secretariat in consultation with the Bureau.

C. High-level ministerial segments

1. *Recognizes* that clear strategic direction and strong political commitment to sustainable forest management are key to the successful fulfilment of every aspect of the mandate of the United Nations Forum on Forests;

2. *Decides* that in order to demonstrate political leadership and commitment and provide guidance to the Forum, the first ministerial segment will be held at the second session of the Forum, and the second at the fifth session;

3. *Also decides* that, inter alia, an important focus of the first ministerial segment of the Forum will be to endorse the Plan of Action adopted at the first session, as a contribution to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, through its Preparatory Committee;

4. *Notes* that the first ministerial segment at the Forum will provide an opportunity for countries to declare their commitment to country goals and

strategies for implementing the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests;

5. *Welcomes with appreciation* the gracious offer of the Government of Costa Rica to host the second session of the Forum and its ministerial segment, in San José, from 4 to 15 March 2002.

D. Inter-sessional work by ad hoc expert groups and country-led initiatives

1. *Recalls* Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, in particular paragraphs 4 (k) and 13, and the statement of programme budget implications of the draft decision in the multi-year programme of work, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 28 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council (E/CN.18/2001/L.4 of 21 June 2001);

2. *Recognizes* the need for inter-sessional work to inform, as well as to provide scientific and technical advice and advance the objectives of the Forum, in an open and transparent manner, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35;

3. *Decides* to recommend the convening of three ad hoc expert groups to support the work of the Forum, which will address the following issues:

(a) Approaches and mechanisms for monitoring, assessment and reporting;

(b) Finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies;

(c) Consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests;

4. *Decides* that the specific titles, composition, terms of reference, scheduling and reporting of these ad hoc expert groups will be endorsed at the second session of the Forum, following adoption during open-ended informal consultations in San José prior to the opening of the session;

5. *Invites* Member States and members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to submit in advance suggestions for consideration at the consultations described in paragraph 4 above;

6. *Welcomes* timely convening of country led initiatives facilitated by the Forum through the Secretariat, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other actors.

E. Involvement of major groups

1. *Stresses* the importance of involvement by major groups as identified in Agenda 21 in the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests, and notes the value of inputs from major groups associated with forest management at national, regional and global levels;

2. *Notes* the value of multi-stakeholder dialogues to furthering the purpose and objectives of the Forum, in particular implementation of sustainable forest management, at national, regional and global levels;

3. *Also notes* the importance of transparent and participatory practices, including multi-stakeholder participation at the national level, to address the

complex issues of implementing sustainable forest management in a cohesive and comprehensive manner;

4. *Requests* the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests to work with the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to expedite submission to the Non-Governmental Organizations Section Committee of applications for accreditation by major groups, in accordance wit the relevant rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council;

5. *Decides* that opportunities for participation of major groups, as identified by Agenda 21, should be facilitated at each session under the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, building upon the transparent and participatory practices established by the Commission on Social Development, the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests;

6. *Decides also* that multi-stakeholder dialogues are to be held at each session as of the second session;

7. *Invites* relevant stakeholders, in accordance with the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, paragraph 4 (c), to contribute to discussions in each session, including, inter alia, case study experiences, underlining the need to encourage a balanced stakeholder participation of developed and developing countries, to give meaningful inputs, inter alia, to the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the intergovernmental forest policy dialogue.

F. Enhancing cooperation and coordination

1. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to support the United Nations Forum on Forests in its work;

2. *Decides* that the United Nations Forum on Forests should develop and maintain contacts, cooperate, as well as make active efforts to develop synergies with the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the Commission on Sustainable Development and other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as other relevant international and regional processes and organizations, institutions and instruments;

3. *Invites* the participation of members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other international and regional processes and organizations, institutions and instruments at each session of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

G. Review

1. *Recalls* Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, in particular paragraph 17, recognizing that the United Nations Forum on Forests should be dynamic and adapt to evolving conditions;

2. *Stresses* the principal functions of the Forum, in particular, facilitating and promoting the implementation of proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and, in this context, the implementation of the decisions of the Forum will be key bases for reviewing progress;

3. *Recognizes* the need to identify the criteria against which to assess the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests in a systematic and objective manner;

4. *Further recognizes* that these criteria might, inter alia, take into consideration the effectiveness in terms of the following:

(a) Facilitating and promoting the implementation of proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests;

(b) Implementing the Plan of Action of the United Nations Forum on Forests;

(c) Addressing the common items, as referred to in section A, paragraph 6 above;

(d) Addressing the means of implementation: finance, transfer of environmentally sound technologies and capacity-building in developing countries, including in countries with low forest cover and other countries with fragile ecosystems;

(e) Strengthening synergies between the Forum and other international bodies;

(f) Enhancing cooperation and policy and programme coordination;

(g) Fostering a common understanding of sustainable forest management and addressing emerging areas of priority concern;

(h) Fostering international and cross-sectoral cooperation at all levels including public-private partnerships;

(i) Reporting by Governments, as well as by regional and international organizations, institutions and instruments;

(j) Strengthening political commitment to the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests;

(k) Qualitative approaches;

(l) Implementation of the decisions of the Forum;

(m) Involvement of major groups;

5. *Decides* that more specific criteria should start to be considered, with a view to being adopted, if possible, at the second session of the Forum, taking into full account the fact that priority should be given to the substantive agenda of that session.

Decision 1/3
Development of a plan of action for the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, which will address financial provisions

The United Nations Forum on Forests,

Recalling the resolution of the Economic and Social Council 2000/35 of 18 October 2000, which gave a mandate to the United Nations Forum on Forests to

develop a Plan of Action for the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests which will address financial provisions,

Also recalling the reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (E/CN.17/1997/12 and E/CN.17/2000/14, respectively), including their proposals for action, aimed at implementation at the national, regional and global levels by countries, relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, including the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as well as private sector and other major groups, as identified in Agenda 21,

Recognizing that the Plan of Action is a holistic and comprehensive response to the call for action with the aim of advancing the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests in the context of sustainable forest management at various levels,

Stressing the importance of providing financial resources from a variety of sources, including public, private, domestic and international, as well as the importance of institutional and capacity-building in developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition in order to implement the Plan of Action,

Recognizing that trade has an important role in the achievement of sustainable forest management,

Emphasizing the need to devise approaches to facilitate technology transfer to developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition in order to support the effective implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests by those countries,

Further emphasizing the importance of good governance and an enabling environment for sustainable forest management at national, subregional, regional and global levels,

Recognizing that the identification of priority actions at the national level is the responsibility of countries themselves,

1. *Decides* to adopt the Plan of Action of the United Nations Forum on Forests, contained in the annex to the present resolution, to guide the more effective and coherent implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, and invites all relevant participants to work with the United Nations Forum on Forests to implement the Plan of Action;

2. *Invites* Ministers to endorse the Plan of Action at the high-level ministerial segment at the second session of the United Nations Forum on Forests and to consider transmitting it as one of the inputs of the UNFF process to the preparatory committee of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, recognizing that countries will proceed immediately with assessment, prioritization and implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests in the context of their national priorities;

3. *Also invites* Ministers to consider any other appropriate inputs, including specific commitments, as appropriate, as a contribution of the United Nations Forum

on Forests process to the preparatory committee of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Annex

Plan of Action of the United Nations Forum on Forests

1. The Plan of Action is a holistic and comprehensive response to the call for action with the aim of advancing the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF)/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) in the context of sustainable forest management at various levels.

2. The responsibility for the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action directed at the national level lies with countries, which will set their own priorities. The Plan of Action is also directed to the international, regional and subregional levels insofar as the proposals are addressed to international and regional actors and their institutions. The international and regional levels also have an important role in supporting national implementation.

3. The implementation of the Plan of Action will require, inter alia, the following:

(a) Establishment of national focal points;

(b) Effective cooperation among the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, bilateral donors and countries and public/private partnerships;

(c) Active stakeholder participation.

4. The activities of the United Nations Forum on Forests, including meetings, country-led initiatives and other inter-sessional work, will facilitate and promote the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action as outlined in United Nations Forum on Forests decision 1/2 on its multi-year programme of work.

5. The target of the Plan of Action is progress on implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action, and demonstrable progress towards sustainable forest management by 2005.

Activities at the national level

6. Countries will set their own national priorities, targets and timetables for the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action, and will systematically assess and analyse the proposals in their national context.

7. To facilitate the assessment, it may be helpful to cluster the proposals for action according to, inter alia, the sixteen elements listed in the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.17/IFF/4).

8. Countries will develop or strengthen, as appropriate, national forest programmes, as defined in the IPF/IFF proposals for action, or other integrated programmes relevant to forests, with the aim of achieving an holistic and comprehensive approach to sustainable forest management.

9. Countries will, on a voluntary basis, report progress towards the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action to the United Nations Forum on

Forests as soon as possible, and if practicable to the first Ministerial segment of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

10. Countries will endeavour to involve relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action at the national level.

Activities of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its members[4]

11. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests is invited to support the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests and to present a concrete and coordinated proposal to assist the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action. The member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests are further invited to contribute actively to the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action, including through their technical and financial resources.

12. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests is also invited to identify and mobilize various financial opportunities in agencies, mechanisms, institutions and instruments for supporting the implementation of the Plan of Action in developing countries.

13. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its member organizations are invited to consider what contributions they can make collectively and individually for supporting the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action and how they can best respond to areas of particular importance to countries and to priority areas at the subregional, regional and global levels.

14. Initiatives are encouraged which address the special concerns of least developed countries as well as low forest cover countries and other countries with fragile ecosystem needs, for example, through follow-up to the Tehran process and the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

Elements

15. The following 16 elements are an important tool for the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action:

(a) Formulation and implementation of national forest programmes;

(b) Promoting public participation;

(c) Combating deforestation and forest degradation;

(d) Traditional forest-related knowledge;

(e) Forest-related scientific knowledge;

(f) Forest-health and productivity;

(g) Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management;

(h) Economic, social and cultural aspects of forests;

(i) Forest conservation and protection of unique types of forests and fragile ecosystems;

[4] More information on the Collaborative Partnership on Forests is provided in United Nations Forum on Forests decision 1/4.

(j) Monitoring, assessment and reporting; and concepts, terminology and definitions;

(k) Rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover;

(l) Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands and the promotion of natural and planted forests;

(m) Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs;

(n) Financial resources;

(o) International trade and sustainable forest management;

(p) International cooperation in capacity-building, transfer of and access to environmentally-sound technologies for the support of sustainable forest management.

Financial resources and other means of implementation

16. The provision of technical assistance, technology transfer, capacity-building and financial resources, in particular to developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition is essential to the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action as is needed to strengthen the capacity of relevant institutions and instruments engaged in this implementation.

17. Financing, technical assistance and capacity-building for implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action will be provided through:

(a) Bilateral and multilateral cooperation, including member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

(b) Stakeholders;

(c) Domestic resources.

All relevant actors are urged to give greater priority to sustainable forest management in allocating resources.

18. Governments of developed countries are urged to increase the quality and quantity of Official Development Assistance. Governments of developed countries that have not yet fulfilled the commitments that they have undertaken to reach the agreed United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) for official development assistance are urged to do so as soon as possible.

19. Financial issues should be an integral part of the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests. This work will endeavour to identify ways in which various forms of finance can best support the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action.

20. The buying and selling of wood and non-wood forest products and services, including across international borders, have a profound effect on sustainable forest management, forest harvesting and the value of forest products. In this context, trade issues should be an integral part of the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests. This work, which needs to draw on all appropriate expertise, will endeavour to identify ways in which trade can best support the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action.

Targets

21. The Plan of Action is an evolving process. In this regard, targets and timetables are important for indicating progress on the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action. Targets will be set by individual countries within the framework of national forest processes, as appropriate, and by organizations at appropriate levels. Concrete process-oriented targets for the Plan of Action should be considered and with a view to being adopted, if possible, at the second session of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

Activities related to reporting

22. Reporting on progress in the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action is based on voluntary reporting, including by subregional and regional groups and processes, drawing upon existing formats, as appropriate.

23. Voluntary reporting by countries, regions, organizations and processes on their implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action should include achievements and identify gaps and obstacles to implementation and on means of implementation. The reports may be prepared in consultation with relevant stakeholders. Such voluntary reports would start at the second session of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

24. Relevant stakeholders are encouraged to provide reports on their contribution to the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action.

25. The Plan of Action will be complemented by activities at the country, subregional, regional and organizational levels and by relevant stakeholders for the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action as well as the work plan of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its member organizations.

26. Countries, member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other relevant organizations, and stakeholders are invited to make proposals and commitments for implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action at each session of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

The Plan of Action will be reviewed and updated as appropriate, consistent with Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 and the multi-year programme of work.

Decision 1/4
Initiation of the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

The United Nations Forum on Forests,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 of 18 October 2000, in which the Council invited the executive heads of relevant organizations to form a collaborative partnership on forests,

Welcoming the timely establishment of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests[5] as well as the endorsement of support to the United Nations Forum on Forests by the Committee on Forestry of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Tropical Timber Council and the Board of Trustees of the Center for International Forestry Research,

Emphasizing the important role of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in supporting the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests in achieving its objectives and in enhancing cooperation and coordination among its member organizations at the national, subregional, regional and international levels,

Noting with appreciation that the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification have agreed to join the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and inviting the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to join as soon as possible,

Emphasizing the need for the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to operate in an open, transparent and flexible manner,

Reiterating that the Collaborative Partnership on Forests should receive guidance and feedback from the United Nations Forum on Forests when carrying out its work, in accordance with the guidance provided by the governing bodies of the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests,

1. *Invites* the governing bodies of the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to identify practical means for mobilizing their diverse strengths and resources to support the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF)/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) focused on country-level implementation;

2. *Invites* the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to consider the need to make enhanced cooperation and coordination among international organizations, institutions and instruments as one of its main priorities;

3. *Encourages* Governments and other participants in the United Nations Forum on Forests to work collaboratively to provide consistent messages in the governing bodies of the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in order to improve coherence and cooperation between them, and calls on Governments and others to mobilize technical and financial resources necessary to allow the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to operate effectively and efficiently and catalyze supporting activities;

4. *Encourages* the governing bodies of the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests that have not yet endorsed their support to the United Nations Forum on Forests to do so as a matter of priority;

[5] Founding member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests: Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity; Center for International Forestry Research; Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Tropical Timber Organization; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Environment Programme and the World Bank.

5. *Stresses* the importance of efficiency in the work of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and thus recommends keeping the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to a limited membership, consisting of organizations that have the capacity to effectively facilitate implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action;

6. *Supports* the efforts of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to facilitate, cooperate, interface and communicate with relevant stakeholders in the framework of informal network;

7. *Invites* the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its member organizations to:

(a) Facilitate and support both the multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the implementation of the Plan of Action;

(b) Facilitate and/or assist the efforts of Governments to implement the IPF/IFF proposals for action;

(c) Continue implementing those IPF/IFF proposals for action specifically targeted to its member organizations;

(d) Report its progress on the above at each session of the United Nations Forum on Forests;

8. *Requests* the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to assist the United Nations Forum on Forests in monitoring, assessing and reporting on progress towards its objectives, including through the use of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management;

9. *Further requests* the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its member organizations to:

(a) Support the inter-sessional work of the United Nations Forum on Forests;

(b) Facilitate the efforts of the United Nations Forum on Forests to achieve a common understanding of forest-related terms, concepts and definitions;

(c) Reduce duplication in the reports required from countries by its member organizations;

(d) Make information on financial resources and environmentally sound technologies, as well as on the state of forests and its related aspects easily accessible and available;

(e) Facilitate the capacity of countries to provide forest-related information;

10. *Invites* the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, based on the above, to develop a work plan as well as success criteria to review the effectiveness of its work and to present these at the second session of the Forum;

11. *Invites* the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to provide expertise and advisory services to the United Nations Forum on Forests;

12. *Invites* the executive heads of the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to participate actively in the ministerial segments of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

II. Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

3. In accordance with paragraph 7 (b) of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, the United Nations Forum on Forests held its first session at United Nations Headquarters from 11 to 22 June 2001. The Forum held 12 meetings (1st to 12th).

4. The session was opened by the Chairman, Mr. Mubarak Hussein Rahmtalla (Sudan).

5. The Assistant Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs made an opening statement.

6. The Chairman of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests also made a statement.

7. At the 11th meeting, on 21 June, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs made a statement.

B. Attendance

8. In accordance with paragraph 4 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, the Forum is composed of all States Members of the United Nations and States members of the specialized agencies with full and equal participation. Representatives of the following States attended the session:

Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Romania, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

9. The following United Nations offices and organs were represented:

Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations University, Secretariat for the Convention on Biodiversity, Secretariat for the Convention on International Trade and Endangered Species, Secretariat for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

10. The following specialized agencies were represented:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Bank, World Intellectual Property Organization, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, World Trade Organization.

The Global Environment Facility was also represented.

11. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:

Africa-Asia Legal Consultative Committee, Center for International Forestry Research, European Community, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, International Tropical Timber Organization, Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, Organization of African Unity, Organization of Economic Cooperation for Development.

12. A number of non-governmental organizations were also represented.

C. Election of officers

13. The officers of the Forum were elected at its organizational session and were as follows:

Chairman:
Mubarak Hussein Rahmtalla (Sudan)

Vice-Chairmen:
Slamet Hidayat (Indonesia)
Alexey Kornienko (Russian Federation)
Gustavo Suarez de Freitas (Peru)

Vice-Chairman-cum Rapporteur:
Knut Øistad (Norway)

D. Adoption of the agenda

14. At its 1st meeting, on 11 June, the Forum adopted its provisional agenda for the session, as contained in document E/CN.18/2001/4. The agenda was as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
2. Adoption of the multi-year programme of work.
3. Development of a plan of action for the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, which will address financial provisions.
4. Initiation of the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.
5. Date and venue for the second session of the Forum in 2002.
6. Provisional agenda for the second session of the Forum.
7. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its first session.

E. Documentation

15. The documents before the Forum at its first session are listed in the annex.

F. Establishment of working groups and designation of their chairmen

16. At the 1st meeting, the Forum decided to establish two working groups at its first session, namely Working Group I, to consider the multi-year programme of work, and Working Group II, to consider the plan of action and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. Upon the proposal of the Chairman, the Forum then designated Mr. Knut Øistad (Norway), Vice-Chairman-cum Rapporteur, to chair Working Group I and Mr. Slamet Hidayat (Indonesia), Vice-Chairman of the Forum, to chair Working Group II.

G. Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations

17. At the 1st meeting, the Forum decided to accord observer status to the intergovernmental organizations listed in document E/CN.18/2001/9 (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 1/1).

H. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its first session

18. At its 12th meeting, on 22 June, the Forum adopted the draft report on its first session (E/CN.18/2001/L.3), as introduced by the Vice-Chairman-cum Rapporteur.

III. Adoption of the multi-year programme of work

19. The Forum discussed agenda item 2 entitled "Adoption of the multi-year programme of work" jointly with items 3 (Development of a plan of action for the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, which will address financial provisions) and 4 (Initiation of the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests), at its 1st to 6th, 8th and 10th meetings from 11 to 14 and on 18 June 2001. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests (E/CN.18/2001/5 and Corr.1).

20. At the 1st meeting, on 11 June, the Coordinator and Head of the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests made an introductory statement.

21. At the 2nd meeting, on 11 June, statements were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Sweden (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Costa Rica, Brazil, the United States of America, Switzerland, the Russian Federation, Canada, China, New Zealand, Japan, Norway, Cuba, Australia, Mexico, Fiji (on behalf of States Members of the Pacific Islands Forum). Egypt, Nigeria and

Ghana. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Sierra Club (on behalf of the Global Forest Policy Project) and the Friends of the Earth International, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

22. At the 3rd meeting, on 12 June, statements were made by the representatives of Sweden (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Burkina Faso, Malaysia and Brazil.

23. At the 4th meeting, on 12 June, statements were made by the representatives of Switzerland, Indonesia, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea, Gabon, Guatemala, New Zealand, the United States of America, Norway, Peru and Australia.

24. At the 5th meeting, on 13 June, statements were made by the representatives of the Sudan, Argentina, Cuba, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Venezuela, Japan, Viet Nam, China, Sweden (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union) and Uganda. The representative of the United Nations Children's Fund made a statement. The representative of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe also made a statement. The representative of the Forest Alliance of British Columbia, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, also made a statement.

25. Also at the 5th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests: the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Center for International Forestry Research, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Global Environment Facility, the International Tropical Timber Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Bank.

26. At the 6th meeting, on 13 June, statements were made by the representatives of Ghana, Switzerland and Japan.

27. At the 8th meeting, on 14 June, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America and Sweden (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union). Statements were also made by the representatives of the Sierra Club (on behalf of the Global Forest Policy Project) and Friends of the Earth International, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

28. At the 10th meeting, on 18 June, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Sweden (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), the Islamic Republic of Iran (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), New Zealand and Japan. The representative of the Sierra Club, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, also made a statement on behalf of the Global Policy Project.

Action taken by the Forum

29. At the 7th meeting, on 14 June, the Chairman introduced a draft decision on the multi-year programme of work on behalf of the Bureau.

30. At the 12th meeting, on 22 June, the Forum had before it a statement by the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of the proposed draft decision, contained in document E/CN.18/2001/L.4.

31. Statements regarding the programme budget implications were made by the representatives of Cuba, the Islamic Republic of Iran (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and the United States of America.

32. In its statement, the United States recalled Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 of 18 October 2000, establishing the United Nations Forum on Forests, which was endorsed by the General Assembly and which clearly recommended that the Forum would be funded from within existing resources and within the regular budget of the United Nations. In this regard, the United States thanked the Secretariat for its statement of programme budget implications, which emphasized that the Secretary-General called for the budget of the Forum to be funded from within the resources of the United Nations, indicating its expectation that these expenses would be covered by a reallocation of personnel and budget from areas of less priority.

33. Following a suspension of the meeting to allow for further consultations in the working groups, the Forum had before it a draft decision entitled "Multi-year programme of work", submitted as a result of consultations held in Working Group I under the chairmanship of the Vice-Chairman-cum Rapporteur, Mr. Knut Øistad (Norway).

34. Statements were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), the Russian Federation, the United States of America, Sweden (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Nigeria and Brazil.

35. At the same meeting, the Forum then adopted the draft decision, as orally amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 1/2).

IV. Development of a plan of action for the implementation of Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposals for action, which will address financial provisions

36. The Forum discussed item 3, entitled "Development of a plan of action for the implementation of Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposals for action, which will address financial provisions", jointly with items 2 (Adoption of the multi-year programme of work) and 4 (Initiation of the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests), at its 1st to 6th, 8th and 10th meetings, from 11 to 14 and on 18 June 2001 (for statements on the item, see paras. 18-26 above). For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Towards the development of the United Nations Forum on Forests plan of action" (E/CN.18/2001/6 and Corr.1);

(b) Letter dated 25 May 2001 from the Permanent Representatives of Brazil, Denmark, Malaysia and Norway and the Deputy Permanent Representatives of South Africa and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (E/CN.18/2001/8).

Action taken by the Forum

37. At the 9th meeting, on 15 June, the Chairman introduced a draft decision on the plan of action on behalf of the Bureau.

38. At the 12th meeting, on 22 June, the Forum had before it a draft decision entitled "Development of a plan of action for the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, which will address financial provisions", submitted as a result of consultations held in Working Group II under the chairmanship of the Vice-Chairman of the Forum, Mr. Slamet Hidayat (Indonesia).

39. At the same meeting, the Forum adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 1/3).

V. Initiation of the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

40. The Forum discussed item 4, entitled "Initiation of the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests", jointly with items 2 (Adoption of the multi-year programme of work) and 3 (Development of a plan of action for the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, which will address financial provisions), at its 1st to 6th, 8th and 10th meetings, from 11 to 14 and on 18 June 2001 (for statements on the item, see paras. 18-26 above). For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the note by the Secretariat entitled "Initiation of the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests" (E/CN.18/2001/7).

Action taken by the Forum

41. At the 10th meeting, on 18 June, the Chairman introduced a draft decision on the Collaborative Partnership on Forests on behalf of the Bureau.

42. At the 12th meeting, on 22 June, the Forum had before it a draft decision entitled "Initiation of the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests", submitted as a result of consultations held in Working Group II under the chairmanship of the Vice-Chairman of the Forum, Mr. Slamet Hidayat (Indonesia).

43. At the same meeting, the Forum adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 1/4).

VI. Date and venue for the second session of the Forum in 2002

44. At the 12th meeting, on 22 June, the Chairman introduced a draft decision entitled "Date and venue for the second session of the Forum in 2002", which the Forum decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft decision I).

VII. Provisional agenda for the second session of the Forum

45. At its 12th meeting, on 22 June, the Forum decided to recommend a draft decision on the provisional agenda for its second session to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft decision II).

Annex

List of documents before the United Nations Forum on Forests at its first session

Document number	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.18/2001/4	1	Provisional agenda
E/CN.18/2001/5 and Corr.1	2	Report of the Secretary-General on the multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests
E/CN.18/2001/6 and Corr.1	3	Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Towards the development of the United Nations Forum on Forests plan of action"
E/CN.18/2001/7	4	Note by the Secretariat on the initiation of the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests
E/CN.18/2001/8	3	Letter dated 25 May 2001 from the Permanent Representatives of Brazil, Denmark, Malaysia and Norway and the Deputy Permanent Representatives of South Africa and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General
E/CN.18/2001/9	1	Note by the Secretariat on accreditation of intergovernmental organizations to the United Nations Forum on Forests
E/CN.18/2001/L.3	7	Draft report
E/CN.18/2001/L.4	2	Statement of programme budget implications of the draft decision on the multi-year programme of work, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 28 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council